

House Concurrent Resolution No. 21

97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES BLACK (Sponsor), SCHIEFFER, HODGES, HARRIS, FOWLER,
HIGDON AND ROORDA (Co-sponsors).

1358H.011

WHEREAS, agriculture is Missouri's largest industry; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's agricultural sectors directly contribute more than \$12 billion to the state, with the total economic impact of agricultural sectors exceeding \$31 billion, and employ approximately 250,000 people; and

WHEREAS, Missouri is one of the leading states in the number of farms, amount of crop production, and number of livestock products in the nation, ranking second in the number of farms and amount of beef livestock production; and

WHEREAS, the 2008 Farm Bill expired on September 30, 2012; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives failed to bring the legislation to the floor for a vote, leading to an inadequate, one-year extension being passed by the United States Congress instead, which will expire on September 30, 2013; and

WHEREAS, a long-term Farm Bill is vital to provide price stability to offset fluctuations in farmers' input costs, such as feed and fuel, which continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, a long-term Farm Bill provides market stability and guarantees an adequate food supply and reasonable food prices for consumers; and

WHEREAS, farmers in Missouri and throughout the country rely on the content of the Farm Bill to make decisions regarding crop and livestock production for the year; and

WHEREAS, failure to pass a new five-year Farm Bill will create significant budget uncertainty for the entire agricultural sector, including the rural businesses and lenders whose livelihoods are dependent upon farmers' and livestock producers' economic viability;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of the House of Representatives of the Ninety-seventh General Assembly, First Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein, hereby strongly urge the United States Congress to pass a comprehensive, five-year Farm Bill to ensure the stability and vitality of the American agricultural industry; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of
36 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for the
37 Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate and United States House of
38 Representatives and for each member of the Missouri Congressional delegation.

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